

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 3, 5-11, and 29-37 remain pending in the present patent application.

1. INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the prior Office Action, claim 29 was indicated to be allowed, and claims 3-4 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In that it is believed that every rejection and objection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

2. RESPONSE TO REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, AND 5-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 has been indicated to be allowable over the cited art. In the present response, the features of claim 4 have been incorporated in independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3 and 5-11 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2, 4, and 12-28 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to these claims is rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

3. NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS 30-37

Claims 30-37 have been newly added to further define and/or clarify the scope of one or more embodiments. Their patentability follows directly from the patentability of allowed claim 29. The features recited in claims 30-37 are similar to those of previously examined claims 2-11. Additionally, these dependent claims recite further features and/or combinations of features (as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves) that are patentably distinct from the cited art of record. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons provided above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Griggers
Reg. No. 47,283